

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

September 5, 2006

Gene Autry, the legendary singing cowboy and film star, was born in 1907 in Texas and raised in the lone star state. He was a popular radio and recording performer and by 1929 he was known as the Oklahoma Yodeling Cowboy. In 1934 he came to Hollywood for his first film performance in Old Santa Fe shot at Republic Studios.

In February, 1947, Autry purchased approximately 4 acres of land in Studio City from the estate of Harry C. Fryman for whom Fryman Canyon is named. Republic Studios where 56 of his 93 feature films were shot beginning in 1935 was located close by. Autry developed the property and lived there for over 50 years until his death at 91 on October 2, 1998. It remains the Los Angeles home of his widow, Jackie Autry.

Gene Autry was the complete Hollywood icon of the singing cowboy showcasing his talents in radio, recordings, film, theatre and television. His achievements were recognized by a star in all five categories on the Hollywood Walk of Fame – the only Hollywood entertainer so honored. Autry recorded 635 songs and 300 were written or co-written by him.

Gene Autry, during the '40's and '50's, starred in the Melody Ranch radio show and became one of the first Hollywood stars to produce feature films and television programs including the series, Death Valley Days. Autry was also a major owner of local radio stations and in 1961 he acquired the California Angels.

The highest ridge in Fryman Canyon, over 1000 feet above sea level, has been informally called the Gene Autry Ridge in the Studio City community for many years. A nomination has been submitted to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, U.S. Geological Survey, to name the ridge as the Gene Autry Ridge. This nomination has wide spread support in the community and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has adopted a resolution supporting the nominations.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles send a five-signature letter to the U.S. Board of Geographic Names endorsing the nomination of the Gene Autry Ridge, in recognition of Autry's many contributions to the entertainment world and his many years as an outstanding citizen of the County of Los Angeles.

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